



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
COLUMBIA COUNTY

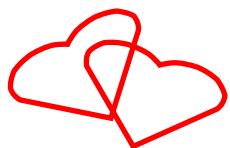
**February 2021**

## Master Gardener News



### 2021 Officers:

Deb Buechner, President  
Connie Wilsnack, Vice Pres.  
Linda Haddix, Secretary  
Ann Marie Fuerst, Treasurer  
Kim Leizinger, Reporter  
Judi Benade, Reporter



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## Columbia County MGV Activities

<b>Now</b>	<b>Enroll in MGV Program for 2021</b>
<b>2-15</b>	<b>LGGG Committee mtg – 4:30 pm</b>
<b>2-23</b>	<b>MGV Meeting – 6:00 pm</b>
<b>2-25</b>	<b>“Confessions of a Black Thumb” – Brian Hudelson presentation 6:00 pm</b>
<b>3-20</b>	<b>LGGG – Virtually – 9:30 am to 1:45 pm</b>
<b>3-23</b>	<b>MGV Meeting – 6:00 pm</b>
<b>3-31</b>	<b>Last day for MGV Enrollment for 2021</b>

### *Note from the President ~*

During the last week of December, I planted six kinds of seeds in six milk jugs and put them outside. This was a voluntary project for Starkweather Creek renovation. The idea is that they stratify in the cold as they require, and then when it begins to warm up, they sprout and grow inside the milk jug that acts like a terrarium. When they get a couple real leaves you transplant them where you want them to grow. It seemed to me initially that the six types of seeds sent to me were carefully selected specifically because they require three to four months of cold in order to sprout. This method, and specifically using gallon milk jugs (how simple is that!), was all new information for me and I was quite excited to give it a try (as well as refurbishing Starkweather Creek, of course).

Lately, though, I've been seeing quite a bit of chatter on the internet touting this same method!

Then, I see a post on Facebook from my daughter-in-law that she's doing this too! Last year was her first attempt at vegetable gardening, and then I saw a note from her that she had ripped out the landscape plants that came with their newish-to-them house and redid that last Fall! She is quite a risk-taker! And she is planting all sorts of seeds in milk jugs, not just the perennial type: lettuce, poppy, yarrow, pansy, calendula, forget-me-not, Brussels sprouts and broccoli! We are both very anxious to see how this (between you and me, rogue experiment) works out.

It may be that I am late starting the 2021 garden. Maybe it should be planted in milk jugs and sitting on my freezing terrace with the six jugs for the Starkweather Creek project!

Stay warm and be safe.

Deb Buechner

President

***Columbia County Master Gardener's Association  
Minutes - January 26, 2021***

In attendance: Kim Leizinger, Judi Benade, Ann Marie Fuerst, Becky Gutzman, Linda Haddix, Bill Damm, Jean Damm, Deb Buechner, Connie Wilsnack, Terry Socha, Rita Socha, Jane Considine, Marcy Read, Pat Trapp, Lori Nadolski and George Koepf.

The meeting was called to order by President Deb Buechner at 6:01 pm.

Introductions were made by all, and we all mentioned a plant we had overwintered.

The Secretary's Report was reviewed, and a motion and second were made to accept the report.

The Treasurer's Report was presented, including a starting balance of \$3,853.44. Ann Marie reminded all that annual dues should be sent to her home address as soon as possible so the funds may be sent to WIMGA. The 501(c)(3) project is going well. A motion was made by Terry with a second made by Judi to accept the Treasurer's Report, which will be sent to audit.

Old Business: The "Let's Get Green and Growing" is taking shape and the committee has been diligently working, including the lineup of speakers. The keynote speaker will be Zannah Crow. Several other speakers were also named, such as Pat Trap speaking on day lilies and Dodge County MGV Carol Shirk who will speak on growing minor fruits, such as elderberries, in the backyard. The brochure will be finalized soon. A planning meeting has been scheduled for Monday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 via zoom. All MGV members are welcome to participate - watch for an invitation from George

Micro-farms in the classroom: Becky reported that the Rio Elementary School has done the project on their own and are happy with the results. Leah purchased more seeds using Jung Dollars members have donated. We now need volunteers to help subdivide the seeds. Contact George or Becky if you are interested in assisting.

New Business: We all need to sign on to the MGV website by March 31st to enroll for this year at: [https://volunteers.wimastergardener.org/vms/sec\\_Login/](https://volunteers.wimastergardener.org/vms/sec_Login/). This is a hard deadline in order to be included in the program for the coming year.

Pat Trapp suggested online training sessions with perhaps a mentor from our group. This could be a good idea, with the mentor staying in touch with the new person after training.

The statewide MGV meeting will be held online Feb 2 at 6:00 PM - more info to come.

Just a reminder that the volunteer hour requirement for 2021 will be waived, but please report any hours you do get online. The 10 hour CE requirement is still in effect.

If anyone has suggestions to volunteer opportunities, please contact George. We must still follow state standards, however.

Other: Becky mentioned a pilot program with face-to-face opportunities, including mentorship, as not all counties have an Ag Educator at this time.

Community Project suggestions: We would assign a contact person for ideas submitted and will provide a list of current MGVs. More explanation to come in the future.

The new Columbia County MGV directory will be printed sometime in February. Make sure to provide any updates to George.

The February meeting will again be held virtually. A lecture on seed starting is being organized by Connie and Linda. It will be very interesting!

Move to adjourn by Terry, with a second by Marcy. Meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

A program regarding sweet potatoes followed and was presented by MGV Kim Leizinger.

Note from Kim: I want to send a special thank you to everyone who attended my presentation on "How to Grow Sweet Potatoes". Thank you for your positive support and encouragement. I have offered the presentation to some of my colleagues at work and have had very positive feedback from the 17 attendees. I have a second group interested in seeing the presentation too. The second presentation will be scheduled soon. Kim Leizinger

**Columbia County Master Gardener Treasurer Report  
January 26, 2021**

Balance on 31 December 2020	3853.44
Deposits - from 2021 Dues (31Jan)	165.00
Jan 05, 2021	45.00
Jan 07, 2021	35.00
Jan 11,2021	75.00
Jan 21,2021	30.00
Total:	350.00
(\$5 donation included on Jan 7)	
As of 26 January, have received 2021 dues from 23 MGV members	
Expensed:	0
Current Balance: as of January 26, 2021:	\$4038.44

# Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers

## February 23, 2021 - Zoom On-line

### Meeting Agenda

Call the Meeting to Order (Deb)

Secretary's Report, January 26, 2021 (Linda)

Treasurer's Report (Ann Marie)

Introductions

#### Old Business

Update on Tax exempt status

LGGS

#### New Business

2021 MGVS Enrollment – Use the online reporting system (ORS)

Suggestions for 2021 Volunteer opportunities

Other

Next Meeting: March 23, 2021 on Zoom

Adjournment

February Program: "Seed Starting",

by Janell Wehr, Marathon & Wood Co. Horticulture Educator



## SEED STARTING PRESENTATION:

JOIN US FOR THE **FEBRUARY 23RD** MEETING AND PROGRAM.

**DURING INTRODUCTIONS, SHARE A SEED STARTING TIP YOU USE.**

**FOLLOWING OUR BUSINESS MEETING, JANELL WEHR, EXTENSION HORTICULTURE EDUCATOR, MARATHON AND WOOD COUNTIES WILL PRESENT SEED STARTING. STARTING SEEDS CAN GIVE A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND LIFE! STARTING PLANTS FROM SEEDS CAN BE A REAL COST SAVINGS AND PROVIDES FOR GREATER ACCESS TO VARIETIES. THIS GIVES A JUMP START ON LONG SEASON CROPS. BRING ONE QUESTION YOU HAVE FOR FELLOW MASTER GARDENERS.**

**AT THE CONCLUSION OF JANELL'S PRESENTATION, WE WILL SHARE AND PROBLEM SOLVE ANY REMAINING UNANSWERED QUESTIONS. WE HAVE MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, TRIAL AND ERROR AMONG US. IT SHOULD BE FUN AND A GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY.**

**SPRING - HERE WE COME!**



## Congrats Columbia County MGVS!!

Volunteer Milestone Awards for 2020

Ann Marie Fuerst - 250 hours

Barb Rothwell - 500 hours

Dick Olson - 750 hours



Thanks for all you do for our local MGVS organization, Columbia County, and local organizations that you volunteer for. Your expertise and efforts on behalf of Master Gardeners is greatly appreciated!!

# Bypassing Plant Pathogens: Promoting Tree and Shrub Health Through Proper Pruning

[January 30, 2021 DDLANG](#)



Pruning in the winter can reduce the risk of disease-causing organisms infecting trees and shrubs through pruning cuts. Although it doesn't seem like the optimal time to be gardening, February is actually a great time to be out pruning your trees and shrubs to make them more structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing.

**Why prune now?** Whenever you prune, you create wounds that potentially can serve as entry points for disease-causing fungi and bacteria. If you prune in the spring and summer (when it's warmer and often wetter), these organisms are very active and more likely land on fresh pruning cuts and infect. When the weather is colder and drier (as it tends to be in February in Wisconsin), disease-causing organisms are much less active and the chances of them infecting through pruning cuts is much reduced.

**How do I go about pruning?** Check out University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1013 (*Pruning Evergreens*), XHT1014 (*Pruning Deciduous Trees*) and XHT1015 (*Pruning Deciduous Shrubs*) for pointers on how to prune. Prune only when it's dry, and decontaminate pruning tools between cuts (or at a minimum between each tree or shrub) by treating them with 70% alcohol (e.g., rubbing alcohol right out of the bottle, spray disinfectants containing ~70% alcohol) or (in a pinch) 10% bleach. Decontaminating tools kills off disease-causing organisms that you might pick up as you prune. Once done pruning, if you've used bleach, be sure to thoroughly rinse your tools, and oil them to prevent them from rusting.

By pruning regularly and taking a few simple precautions as you do, you will end up with trees that are beautiful, structurally sound and healthy.

## Overwintering Meyer Lemon Plants

By Jean and Bill Damm

At last month's monthly Zoom meeting members told of their overwintering projects. With cold temps and shorter sunlight hours, keeping outdoor plants alive indoors can be a challenge. I was not up to the challenge!

Instead, Bill's sister, living in San Francisco, kindly does the work for us. Carol Damm has a beautiful Meyer lemon tree in her backyard, tends it and hand picks luscious lemons. (Meyer Lemons are from China and are less acid and therefore sweet, its zest is more floral than conventional lemons). She sends them to us periodically during the winter. The plant is so common there that, like our zucchini crops, she can't give them away. Our latest "harvest" arrive Saturday via USPS, ten sunny yellow lemons.



Fence on the right is six feet tall



## Overwintering Meyer Lemon Plants (cont)



Overwintering without any covers!!



The Harvest! Arrived Saturday, January 30, 2021.  
When life gives you lemons.....



## Pesticides for Indoor Plants

By Judi Benade

As we won't be gardening outdoors for a while, this article is about ways to deal with pest problems on indoor plants as a possible step in the Integrated Pest Management process. The UW-Extension Learning Store articles about indoor plants routinely refer pest management questions to the UW-Extension Horticulture chart "Insect pest management for greenhouses." That document, <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A3744.pdf> is a great resource with information about the chemical pesticides that are effective against the 11 common indoor plant pests: Aphids, Caterpillars, Fungus Gnats, Leafminers, Mealybugs, Scales, Mites, Thrips, Whiteflies, Shoreflies, and Slugs & Snails.

Suppose you identified a pest on your indoor plants and have determined that it needs addressing. You already tried the appropriate low-budget / low-tech options such as isolating the plant, removing the infested parts, or removing the pests one way or another: picking them off by hand or applying alcohol, using a spray of water or insecticidal soap. The "simple solutions" didn't work, so now what?

If you look at the Horticulture chart, you'll find a rather small type font and an overwhelming wealth of information. With so much listed, I decided to flag some of the most versatile pesticides, hoping this will help me decide what to hunt for in my basement and at the store. The pesticides I chose should be handled at the "Caution" level, and are available without restriction: you don't need pesticide applicator credentials to buy and use them.

Use this information as a starting place, then read the label carefully to be sure the product is appropriate for both your plant and the pest situation. Assumptions can be dangerous: I was surprised to see Insecticidal soap - Potassium salts of fatty acid - listed in the chart with a WARNING level for use. I would have guessed it would be "Caution" or less. Here are some other details that can complicate plant pest management. If you decide to treat for leafminers, verify which kind you have. Some Leafminers are Dipter and others are Lepidopter, which respond to different pesticides. That same situation exists for mites: there are many types, and they have a variety of reactions to pesticides. Also note that not all bugs and caterpillars are pests. Indoors or out, a pesticide may have far-reaching results you didn't expect or don't want, so proceed with care. I have mosquitos in my basement for some reason, and if any of the critters living in my plant jungle eat mosquitos, I'd certainly prefer to keep them!

Two pesticides on the UW-Ext Horticulture chart target 10 of the 11 indoor plant pests, that's everything except Slugs & Snails. Both pesticides can be used on edible plants and are labeled for organic purposes. One choice is Azadirachtin + Pyrethrins, listed on line 7. It is a mixture of two botanical chemicals, which the company MGK manufactures as a product called Azera. The other product is the single botanical Azadirachtin, listed on line 6. Gordon's sells it with the name Azatrol. The OHP company sells the same chemical under the trade name Aratin O, though mites are not on the list of pests it controls.

## Pesticides for Indoor Plants (cont)



Another pesticide with broad applications is the organophosphate Acephate, listed on line 3. Acephate targets 9 of the listed pests, effective against all except Slugs & Snails and Shoreflies. The pesticide cannot be used on food plants and is not for organic uses. The BASF company sells it under the tradename 1300 Orthene TR. Be careful to choose the correct one, as other BASF products with Orthene in the name do not have these same qualities.

Plain old Mineral Oil, listed on line 40, is a good way to deal with most common indoor plant pests. It is effective against 8 of the 11 pests, all except Slugs & Snails, Shoreflies, and Caterpillars, and can be applied to food plants. Many mineral oil products, such as BASF Ultra-pure Oil, are made from petroleum products and are not permitted for organic use. Others, such as Petro-Canada PureSprayGreen, are vegetable oil and are labeled for organic uses. Don't substitute one oil for another, as oils are not alike. Trendy Neem oil is very popular among orchardists and organic growers. Listed on line 42, it targets far fewer pests than mineral oil, only 5. Like mineral oil, it is not effective against Slugs & Snails, Shoreflies, and Caterpillars, and also does not target Fungus Gnats, Leafhoppers or Thrips.

Acetamiprid, on line 5, is a neonicotinoid pesticide which targets 8 of the 11 pests, all except Mites, Shoreflies, Slugs & Snails. Nufarm manufactures this under the tradename Tristar 8.5 SL. It is not for use on edible plants and is not organic. Permethrin, on line 45, targets the 7 of the 11 pests, the same ones as Acetamiprid, plus it is not effective against scale. It cannot be used on food plants and is not for organic purposes. It is manufactured by FMC, and sold under the name Astro. A related product, Perm-UP is restricted.

To treat a plant for Slugs & Snails, use the compounds listed on line 34 or 38 of the chart. These pesticides are only effective against Slugs & Snails, other pests are not affected. Line 34 is Iron Phosphate + Spinosad, a granular product sold under the trade name Sluggo Plus T & O manufactured by Brandt. This product is OK for organic usage, but can't be applied to plants to eat. The other option is Metaldehyde, listed on line 38. It is not approved for use on edible plants, and does not have an Organic label. The Amvac company manufactures this product as a pellet in two formulations called Deadline Bullets and Beadline M-P. The Durham company has a product with the tradename Metaldehyde 7.5, which is a granule.

When you need to treat a plant for caterpillars, use *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki*, listed on line 9. This product is safe for vegetables and other food crops, and is labeled for organic purposes. Many companies manufacture this microbial, for example, it is sold by Valent with the trade name Dipel Pro DF. Don't be tempted to use *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *israelensis* against caterpillars: that microbial targets gnats, not caterpillars.

### Quick Reference:

The 11 common indoor plant pests:

Aphids, Caterpillars, Fungus Gnats, Leafminers, Mealybugs, Scales, Mites, Thrips, Whiteflies, Shoreflies, and Slugs & Snails

## Continuing Education Hour Opportunities

### Confessions of a Black Thumb: Plants That I Have Killed, or at Least Seriously Maimed

February 25, 2021  
6:00-7:30pm

Presented by Dr. Brian Hudelson



Zoom Webinar

Free - but registration is required!

Learn about the Brian's (aka Dr. Death's) epic failures in attempting to grow plants in his home garden, either through his encouragement of plant diseases, his insistence on practicing "Darwinian gardening" or through his sheer gardening stupidity. Use these cautionary tales to improve your own gardening skills.

Please use the following link to register! The connection information will be sent the day before the event.

[https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5AxdKBZXUZnhNid](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5AxdKBZXUZnhNid)



### Growing Healthy Plants: Basics in Plant Disease Management



March 16, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm via Zoom.

This talk presented by Brian Hudelson is sponsored by UW-Madison Division of Extension Outagamie County.

To register, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdi-ZB3e2cydil-UZiVRTSy--fhF-cfZEEwIKYniV8mJnEyVQ/viewform>

## Plant Varieties - Old Favorites and New Discoveries

By Judi Benade



My fingers yearn to get in the dirt again but I have scant inclination to actually go look at the garden plot and measure and lay things out for next season. It's winter, a season for extravagant garden plans. Still, I hope this article will be a bit more down-to-earth practical than the pie-in-the-sky plans created sby studying enticing pictures in the garden catalogues that crowd our mailboxes. Here's a wonderful group of plant varieties your fellow MGv had success with during 2020, right here in Columbia County.

Tomatoes and peppers are clearly a big favorite in our vegetable gardens. The familiar standards for full sized tomatoes, like Wisconsin 55, Early Girl and Federle are extremely popular, mentioned by Terry, Donna and Lorraine. George experimented with Mountain Fresh tomatoes and loved them. Judi's tried and true varieties for full size tomatoes are heirloom varieties Crynkovic Yugoslavian and Soldacki. Both are huge vigorous plants with large flavorful tomatoes, though prone to cracking. Kim was enthusiastic about her heirloom tomatoes, which performed well for her, making strong plants grew fruit with fabulous flavor, and there was another heirloom vote, for Cherokee Purple. Connie enjoyed Pineapple tomatoes this year. She says they are pretty, low acid and yummy, though not the most flavorful. Among small tomatoes, Jean and Bill favored Juliet tomatoes and Large Cherry tomato, both of which were good producers. Terry praised the prolific Chef Jeff's Tomato Sweet cluster which he got at Edgewood Greenhouse. Judi's new favorite small tomato is Matt's Wild Cherry Tomato. It has an exquisite intense tomato flavor, robust vines and had no disease problem. Her one test plant sprawled into a circle at least 6 feet across that bore fruit early and didn't quit until late in the autumn. For sauce, Judi always grows Opalka, a reliable rich, sweet heirloom tomato that ripens in 85 days.

Nobody opted to list extremely hot peppers as a favorite, but our group includes aficionados of green peppers, sweet peppers and mildly hot ones. Connie discovered the TAM, aka Fooled You pepper this year. It is an amazingly prolific small pepper shaped like a jalapeno, with no heat in the flavor. She still had a few peppers ripening indoors on the plant in late January! Donna likes to grow Sweet Banana Pepper for its flavor and its prolific habits, and Fat & Sassy Red for its large size and taste. This year she experimented with Carmen Pepper, and enjoyed its flavor as well. Bill and Jean count on King Arthur Green peppers as their standard every year. Lorraine depends on Chervena Chuska Sweet tapered red pepper. It is productive, is good for both roasting and stuffing, and the peppers all turn red quite successfully.

## Plant Varieties - Old Favorites and New Discoveries (cont)

Flowers and Herbs are also a large focus in our gardens. Marcy enjoys seeing the delicate beauty of her small blossom Japanese purple iris, something she acquired years back from a family garden. That and cone flowers enliven her landscape each year.

She's planning to experiment with some of the colorful hybrid cone flowers. Members have great success with scabiosas, both plain-leaf and striped leaf varieties, along with long term plantings of peonies, day lilies and hostas. Italian Broadleaf Parsley thrived in a pot outdoors and was such a success it was harvested to go with the thanksgiving turkey in the smoker! Lila also has plants doing well in pots. Her thyme and rosemary have moved indoors for the winter. She said the thyme is doing well, and hopes the rosemary survives. Rita enjoyed experimenting Lavandula Angustifolia, "Folgate" English Lavender. Its purple spikes are very fragrant. She always grows the Russian Sage variety Baby Blue Jean, which is a compact well-behaved plant that stays upright, doesn't flop as the season progresses.

Is garlic an herb, a root crop, or both? Whichever it is, Kim tried Chesnok red garlic in her garden this year. She says it is easy to grow and has the best flavor for sauteing, an excellent flavor that more than makes up for the somewhat small size cloves. Kim always grows Alisa Craig onions. This year she planted them in clusters and they did exceptionally well, getting large in poor sandy soil. She babies the plants with horse manure and diligent weeding using a cobra head. Judi always includes Cippolini sweet onions in her garden, and says they are wonderful in salad and sliced on sandwiches but they make **The Best** French Onion soup. Carol focuses on German Giant Radish each year, as no other long-season radish performs as well. Terry tried Early Wonder Beets this year and was pleased with how sweet they are. Moving to the cabbage family of plants, Jean and Bill always grow Packman broccoli, and Connie raves about her Luculus Swiss Chard which stayed tender and produced well all year, particularly early and late. Connie enjoys growing cold weather shitake mushrooms, which bear heavily when asparagus is king, other gardeners praised an old friend, the reliable ad attractive Norway Spruce.

The "Three Sisters," corn, beans and squash, round out the vegetable garden. Judi grows Reverend Morrow Sweet Corn, a heritage she grows for seed corn to share through Seed Savers Exchange. It is a full-flavored corn, not as sweet as the super-sweet varieties. The ears are mostly blue with a few golden or striped kernels. Bill and Jean and Carol raved about Honey Nut squash, which is easy to grow, easy to cook, and delicious. Judi tried Joker winter squash for the first time this year. It has an outstanding flavor, similar to Sweet Mama and Delicata, but sweeter, fruiting heavily on mid-length vines, and seems to be the longest keeper of these three related squash. Kim experimented with Mayflower pole beans and was pleased with their excellent flavor as a snap bean. They're better known as a shell bean, and she enjoyed the nutty flavor and great yield. Pat counts on Jung's Burgundy Bush purple bean, which has a good yield, good taste, and freeze very well. Borselino Bean suits Leah. She says they grow on nice sturdy plants, are not stringy, and produce for about a month.



## Plant Varieties - Old Favorites and New Discoveries (cont)



### Summary:

#### Tomatoes—

Full size: Wisconsin 55, Early Girl, Federle, Mountain Fresh Tomato, Cynkovic Yugoslavian Tomato, Soldacki, Pineapple Tomato

Small: Juliet, Large Cherry Tomato, Chef Jeff's Tomato Sweet Cluster, Matt's Wild Cherry Tomato.

Paste: Opalka

Herbs: Lavandula Angustifolia, "Folgate" English Lavender, Russian Sage variety Baby Blue Jean, Italian Broadleaf Parsley, Thyme, Rosemary

Garlic: Chesnok Red Garlic,

Onion: Alisa Craig Onion, Cipolini Sweet Onion.

Root crops: German Giant Radish, Early Wonder Beets

Cabbage Family: Packman Broccoli, Luculus Swiss Chard.

Corn: Reverend Morrow Sweet Corn

Squash: Honey Nut Squash, Joker Winter Squash,

Bean: Mayflower Pole Bean, Burgundy Bush Purple Bean, Borselino Bean



#### Peppers -

Sweet: TAM, aka Fooled You Pepper, Sweet Banana Pepper, Chervena Chuska Sweet Tapered Red Pepper.

Mild hot: Fat & Sassy Red, Carmen Pepper

Green: King Arthur Green Pepper

Flowers: Japanese purple iris, Cone flower including colorful hybrid cone flowers, scabiosas, both plain-leaf and striped leaf varieties, peonies, day lilies and hostas



Master Gardener News  
112 E. Edgewater Street  
Room 212  
Portage, WI 53901  
Phone: 608-742-9680  
Fax: 608-742-9862  
711 for Wisconsin Relay